

France will protect Djibouti

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (AP) — France would use troops to protect Djibouti from being engulfed in the conflict in the Horn of Africa, the French Ambassador to the U.S. said today. But he said Western nations could do much at this time to help Somalia, because Somalia is the aggressor in the conflict. Ambassador François de Laboulaye said France has 4,000 troops in Djibouti, a tiny but strategically located nation nestled between Ethiopia and Somalia on the Red Sea. It became dependent from France last year. Mr. de Laboulaye said those troops would not cross the Djibouti border and participate in the wider Horn of Africa conflict ...

Volume 3, Number 689

Owen: Mideast peace momentum picking up

OPIED JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (AP) — Britain's Foreign Secretary David Owen today met spokesman Minister Menachem Begin and said afterwards he thinks the momentum of the East peace process is picking up.

Owen, here on a two-day visit, met Mr. Begin shortly after the Israeli leader conferred with United States special envoy Alfred Atherton on Egypt's latest proposal for a declaration of peace.

"I believe the momentum of the peace initiative is still there," Dr. Owen told reporters. "I get the feeling the momentum is very much the

momentum as Egypt was to be hardening its declaration of principles. During the morning Dr. Owen met Mr. Atherton who later leaving for Cairo the latest Israeli counter-

Owen said he thought Israeli peace plan put forward at the Ismailia summit in December still represented a good framework for negotiations.

Both sides can expect to talk at once," he said.

Owen said he did not expect the Jordanians were yet prepared to join in the peace talks.

A declaration of principles had been agreed, Dr. Owen said, though it might be possible for Jordan to enter the negotiations.

Dr. Owen said he thought Israel should remind Jordan that the plan for self-rule on the occupied West Bank a concept initially as a five-year measure.

Dr. Owen has argued that there might be more disposed to peace talks if it could be shown that this plan was temporary.

Other sources noted, however, that Mr. Begin had not held out hope of his plan being adopted or watered down at all for five years. Whether Jordan would be prepared to break with

Owen hints of role for U.N.

At a press conference tonight Dr. Owen said he found it very difficult to see how progress could be made on the West Bank problem without Jordanian participation.

But he said: "It is not the British position that we should now, at this moment in time, be putting pressure on Jordan."

The foreign secretary said he had not spent much time discussing with Mr. Begin the issue of Jewish settlement on Arab land. "But I understand," he said, "how difficult it would be for Mr. Begin to ask people to leave, to say 'You will leave.' That's difficult."

Dr. Owen said Britain agreed with the American view that these settlements were illegal and an obstacle to peace.

But he said that if settlements could be seen as areas integrated in their surroundings, accepting local administration, then some outside agency such as the United Nations might, if necessary, take over their defense.

For the Israeli settlements in northern Sinai, Dr. Owen said he did not believe they would serve any great security purpose provided Sinai as a whole was demilitarized, with Egyptian forces remaining west of the Giddi and Mitla passes.

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"There is no change in government policy," said Mr. Na'or.

The latest decision came in the midst of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton's diplomatic shuttle between Egypt and Israel aimed at renewing peace talks.

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A marathon debate on settle-

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The cabinet ruled that "it does not need new decisions" on settlements. Its last debate on the issue, seven weeks ago, ended with a resolution to expand existing settlements in northeast Sinai without building new ones.

It has also decided to build

Israeli cabinet shies away from calling a halt to settlements

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb. 27 (AP) — The Israeli government yesterday resolved not to change its controversial policy of settling Jews in occupied Arab land.

The foreign secretary said he had not spent much time discussing with Mr. Begin the issue of Jewish settlement on Arab land. "But I understand," he said, "how difficult it would be for Mr. Begin to ask people to leave, to say 'You will leave.' That's difficult."

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Thanks, but no thanks

One must feel disappointed by the public statements of British Foreign Secretary David Owen during his brief visit to Jordan Saturday. The two points he stressed most seem to us rather unworthy of so much stressing, the points being the need to keep the momentum of the peace talks going and the need to see Israeli proposals for so-called home rule in the West Bank and Gaza as interim arrangements to be valid for five years. If this is the best Dr. Owen had to say, then we think perhaps he has not said very much at all.

On the first count Dr. Owen is putting himself in that camp that sees momentum as substitute for achievement, a position totally unworthy of his person and his position. There comes a point beyond which momentum by itself becomes meaningless, and the frantic quest for momentum becomes pathetic. What we are after, and what Dr. Owen should be trying to help achieve, is real progress in the peace talks, which boils down to the principle of a full Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands and recognition of Palestinian national rights -- two principles that have been accepted by the entire world, except for Israel. It behoves a major power such as Great Britain to drive this point home to the Israelis, and not, as Dr. Owen seems to be doing, to sugarcoat Israeli intransigence by telling the Arabs that we should view things in five-year segments. Given Great Britain's past assurances to the Arabs about Palestinian rights and Zionist intentions in Palestine, we find it very difficult -- to put it charitably -- to take Dr. Owen's suggestions seriously.

On the second count, of taking the Begin proposals as being valid for a five-year period only, we think that the awesome precedent of institutionalising and legalising the Israeli occupying presence in the West Bank and Gaza for a five-year period in itself outweighs the very unconvincing nature of the five-year transitional period. We want an end to the occupation, not its compartmentalisation in neat five-year packages.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL DUSTOUR said Monday that in his statements to the Kuwait daily Al Ra'i Al 'Aam, Prime Minister Mudar Badran focused once again on Jordan's stand towards the Arab-Israeli conflict -- a stand based on firm and unbargainable principles. That is, total Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory and respect of the Palestinians right to self-determination.

The newspaper says Israel's propaganda machine is trying to distort Jordan's position, but Premier Badran's pronouncements come in time to strip the Israeli stubbornness and place the impediments blocking peace squarely at Israel's door...

The Prime Minister, Al Dustour adds, spoke at length on Jordan's internal requirements as a frontline state. He thanked Saudi Arabia and Gulf states for their financial help, but felt it was his duty to call on other hesitant brotherly countries to fulfill their promises for help under the Arab summit resolutions.

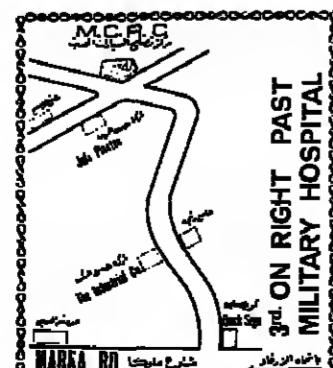
AL RA'I noted with amazement the discrepancy between Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan's statement the other day that Jordanian non-participation hinders the process of peace negotiations between Egypt and Israel and Israel's former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin saying that it was Israel's hardline which closed the door before Jordan's participation. Even, in the words of Mr. Rabin, Jordan would not get anything, if it took part in the negotiations.

Al Ra'i asks "in view of this apparent conflict of opinion between the Israeli government and the opposition, why, therefore, all this prattle about Jordan's attitude and the necessity of including Jordan in the negotiations?" The newspaper says the negotiators, who have not yet been able to change Israel's uncompromising attitude, should leave Jordan alone and search for more effective means of pressure to bear on Israel, if those really want just and lasting peace to prevail in the Middle East.

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New centre maps Jordan for planners

By John Rigg
 Special to the Jordan Times

The Director of the Jordan National Geographic Centre which was established in 1973, Lt.-Col. Al Majali told the Jordan Times that it was created to cope with the increasing demand for maps by the country's development planners.

Development projects of all kinds must have a basic framework in order for the planning stages to proceed, and this is created by and large, through the accumulation of information gleaned from up-to-date maps and charts. Jordan in particular, with its rapid growth during the current Five Year Plan, relies heavily on city, regional and national maps, which are current and easily accessible.

It was first initiated in October 1975, as part of a joint technical-cultural co-operation agreement between the French and Jordanian governments, and includes a training scheme which is actually the crux of the whole centre.

"First and foremost," says Lt.-Col. Majali, "I am concentrating, and will continue to concentrate, on a high standard of training. We cannot rely on foreign expertise forever. Our people are now being trained to take over the work when the foreign teachers and experts decide to leave."

A training centre was created at Zarqa, where 200 Jordanian Survey Technicians will receive instruction over the next five years. The staff consists of four French experts, who are permanently stationed there, but visiting lecturers from France are also rotated every three or four months.

Intensive course

It is an extremely intensive course for both men and women and covers four semesters each of 54 months duration. Trainees are accepted only at the beginning of the two year diploma course. Unlike most universities, the Zarqa training centre commences its programme before enrollment begins again.

Candidates are chosen from students who have successfully completed their Jordanian Matriculation in Science. The curriculum includes the study of Topography, Cosmography, Photogrammetry (serial photography), Drafting, Mathematics, Cartography, Geology, and the study of the French and English languages.

In fact, the course is so intensive that the accumulated credit hours equal those of a Masters Degree.

Last December, the first group of 19 men and 18 women received their graduation diplomas, while another enrolment of 60 students were already at work in their first month of training. Lt.-Col. Majali says, "This graduation is the most important achievement of the centre to date. It was the first group of trainees in this field who were totally trained in Jordan."

This technological-cultural cooperation between the French and Jordanians also allows for promising trainees to be given scholarships which will enable them to study at the Institute Géographique Nationale in Paris. Here, they may continue studying for periods ranging from two to six years, and it is hoped that they'll eventually return to Jordan to take over all the country's mapping needs.

At the moment, the National Geographic Centre handles about 40 per cent of the map work in Jordan. The rest is handled by a French company based in Amman.

The French Mapping Group, as it is called, is an alliance between the Institute Géographique Nationale and the Compagnie d'Etude et de Techniques. Both are Paris-based companies who train geographic technicians.

Through an agreement included in the centre's 1975 charter, the French were given exclusivity with regards to Jo-

rdanian government mapping projects. This exclusivity simply means that if certain projects can not be handled by the National Geographic Centre, the French Mapping Group would undertake them, if the project was financed by Jordan. In this way, Jordan is free to accept the services of any foreign country who could carry out the work and bear the cost.

Students collect data

Some projects that have been carried out have used students from the centre itself. In 1977, a "Land Use Survey" of Amman utilised the trainees to gather data. It was a monumental task and required the trainees to visit all houses, businesses, hospitals, land-owners, public and private institutions, etc. Its purpose was to find out exactly how each plot of land in the city is used.

The trainees also helped to plan land use surveys and ortho-photographs (aerial photography) that gives a vertical rather than a perspective view) for ten Jordanian cities.

Lt.-Col. Majali doesn't believe in giving his trainees imaginary projects. He feels that at the present stage of Jordan's development it is a concept that is rather wasteful. Productive projects are, anyway, much more beneficial to the trainees.

Although the centre's priorities lie first with Jordan's mapping needs, neighboring Arab countries will also be able to take advantage of this special type of work. Most other Arab



An artist's impression of the new centre.

countries lack facilities for accurate and detailed mapping and often have to rely upon foreign companies to fill this gap.

This results in a leakage of geographic, economic, and strategic information as well as being a costly venture. It is therefore advantageous for Jordan to corner the market and at the same time to strengthen ties between itself and the Arab community.

Looking to the future, plans have been prepared, and indeed, excavations have begun on

the Jordanian National Geographic Centre compound.

It will cost an estimated JD 3 million and will be erected on the grounds of the Royal Scientific Society adjacent to the University of Jordan. The architect is Mr. Roger Taillibert, who was the designer of the Olympic Stadium in Montreal. When it is completed in approximately two years time, it will house the Jordanian National Geographic Centre and the training centre, the focal point of its present work, which will be relocated from Zarqa.



Male trainees work with a plane table. This device can map elevation on the spot.

WHAT'S GOING ON

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MEETING

A meeting is being held this evening at 7:00 at the American Community School, to discuss the establishment of an International High School for the children of expatriates in Jordan. Interested parents are welcome to attend. For additional information, call Mr. Paul Smith, telephone 42934.

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THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

AMMAN WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

Notice of International Competitive Bidding

and

INVITATION TO TENDERING

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is negotiating a Credit from the US Agency for International Development to partially finance a construction programme of the Water Supply and Sewerage Extensions for the City of Amman, and it is intended that proceeds of this Credit will be applied to payments under the contracts for which this notice is issued. Bidding will be open to contractors and equipment suppliers from U.S. Contractors, Jordanian contractor, and contractors from countries eligible under AID Geographic Code 941. Only tenders from contractors experienced in similar works of this magnitude with proper personnel, equipment and sound financial position, which would be part of evaluation, will be considered.

The works to be carried out will be in principle, divided into six contracts as follows:

Contract No.

Description

1S	Supply and laying of sanitary sewers, in the central, eastern part of Amman. Approx total length of mains, laterals and house connection is 65 kms.
5WS	Laying of about 74 kms. of water pipes of different diameters in J. Amman, Abdoun and Shmeisani. Supply and laying of about 59 kms. of sanitary sewers in the same area. Civil works for one booster station and one sewage pumping station.
12ST	Changes to existing sewage treatment plant.
13ST	Sludge digester.
14ST	Sludge drying beds.
15ST	Sludge drying beds, second extension.

Tender documents for contracts 1S & 5WS will be available separately from AWSA by May 1st, 1978, and the closing date for bidding has been set at 12:00 noon July 1, 1978. AWSA will consider tenders post-marked no later than June 16, 1978. Envelopes must be clearly marked 1S & 5WS accordingly. The price for each set of these documents is JD 100.-

Tender documents for contracts 12 ST through 15 ST will be available from AWSA by June 1st, 1978 and the closing date for bidding has been set at 12:00 noon July 31, 1978. AWSA will consider tenders post-marked no later than July 15, 1978. Prices for the tender documents of contracts 12 ST through 15 will be as follows:

12 ST	JD 30,-
13 ST	JD 75,-
14 ST	JD 50,-
15 ST	JD 50,-

Envelopes must be clearly marked 12 ST, 13 ST, 14 ST, 15 ST accordingly.

Tahsin Sabbagh
 General Manager

John C. 150

Israel and human rights

This bulletin on the case of Safieh Salim Muhammad Musa was prepared by Ur Shlonsky, with the assistance of Attorney Lea Tsemel.

Safieh Salim Muhammad Musa is a 55-year old man from Irbwan, a village near Ramallah. A short time ago, she returned to the Israeli occupied territories after a visit to Amman. She transported back a single packet of cigarettes in which a report sent in Jordan to her son in Ramla prison,* lay sealed.

In a routine check carried out at the prison, the report was discovered. On 3/7/77 Safieh was arrested and detained at Neve-Tirza prison for women. Safieh lied having previously known of the secret report inside the cigarettes.**

On 3/9/77 Att. Lea Tsemel sent a letter to the attorney prosecutor notifying him that she was representing Safieh. Att. Lea Tsemel was not notified of the hearing held on 12/9/77. Att. Tsemel was in the court house by sheer chance on that day and had to enter her way into the courtroom.

We condemn the arrest of Safieh and her detention for such a lengthy period (over 2.5 months!) as suspect for such a petty offence. We further criticize authorities for their obvious circumvention of the law by not notifying the defendant's attorney of the trial date.

The authorities claim that they found 3 cigarettes marked with small dots inside of which lay concealed blue sheets of paper.

National News Roundup

Exports to India up 400 per cent

AMMAN, Feb. 27 (JNA). — Jordan's exports to India during October 1977 reached JD 574,000 in correspondence with JD 144,000 during the same month of 1976, an increase of 404 per cent. Sources at the statistics department added that Jordan's imports from India amounted to JD 122,000 in correspondence with JD 547,000 during the said period, a drop of 77 per cent. Rock phosphates topped the export list to India while imports from that country included frozen meats, tea, bags, iron and telex equipment.

Jordan to participate in world tourism meeting

AMMAN, Feb. 27 (JNA). — Jordan will participates in the meeting of the international conference for tourism and air transport, due to open in Canada on April 17, under the auspices of the World Tourism Organisation. The four day meeting will discuss tourism cooperation and coordination in air transportation among the member states. Jordan's delegation to the conference will be headed by Tourism and Antiquities Minister, Ghaleh Barakat.

19 million cub metres of water now behind dam

AMMAN, Feb. 27 (JNA). — Director General of the Jordan River Tributaries Corporation said yesterday that 19 million cubic metres of water was now being stored behind King Talal dam. He added that the corporation had started storing water behind the dam since February 1977 from floods and nearby wadis. The dam will eventually hold 58 million cubic metres to be used in the irrigation of 60,000 dunums in addition to supplying Amman with ten million cubic metres of drinking water.

Austrian envoy received

AMMAN, Feb. 27 (JNA). — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hassan Ibrahim today received the new Austrian ambassador-designate to Jordan who arrived in Amman this morning. Mr. Ibrahim also received the Algerian ambassador in Beirut, Mohammad Yazeed, and the Iraqi Charge d'Affaires.

West Bank educational, cultural situation reviewed

AMMAN, Feb. 27 (JNA). — The Minister of Information, Adnan Abu Odeh, who is also acting Minister of Education, reviewed educational and cultural conditions in the occupied Arab territories and Israel's violations there, when he met with members of the United Nations Education, Science and Culture Organisation's (UNESCO) committee for collecting data on national education and culture in the occupied Arab areas. The committee members then split into three working groups and met with officials of the Ministry of Education and the Executive office of the Occupied Homeland Affairs to discuss educational conditions, curricula, text-books, vocational education, teachers and students affairs and those of writers, literary men and journalists in the occupied Arab areas. The five-member committee had visited the occupied areas two months ago and collected information about education there. The formation of the committee was decided by the 11th UNESCO General Assembly held in 1976 in Nairobi. The committee members, who arrived here yesterday on a few-days stay in Jordan, this afternoon visited development projects now being implemented in the Jordan Valley area.

Jordanian, Hungarian accord signed

BUDAPEST, Feb. 27 (JNA). — A Cultural and Scientific Cooperation Agreement between Jordan and Hungary was signed here today. Jordan's ambassador in Hungary, who signed the agreement, praised the two countries cooperation and friendly relations, notably in the economic and commercial fields. The Head of the Hungarian Scientific, Cultural and Technical Cooperation Department, who signed the agreement for his country, expressed his hope that the newly-signed accord will lead to good and positive results.

Foreign currency controls being finalised

AMMAN, Feb. 27 (JNA). — The Central Bank of Jordan is currently drawing up instructions in their final form to control foreign currency. These instructions have been sent in the form of notes to the licensed banks and concerned institutions at intervals. They include instructions to increase the authority of the licensed banks to issue foreign currency permits, and reduce routine work. The instructions will be distributed to the concerned banks and institutions this week.

New hotels licenced

AMMAN, Feb. 27 (JNA). — The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities today licenced two new hotels and a tourist and travel agency. It cancelled licence of an oriental antiques shop in Karak and a pension in Amman.

Do not miss the sale on Lario Boots



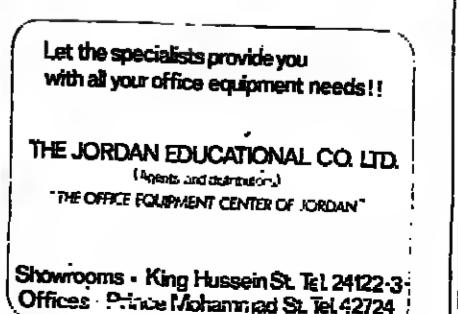
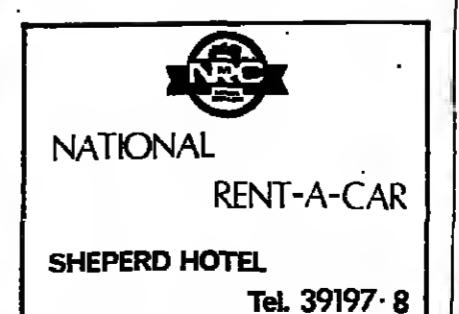
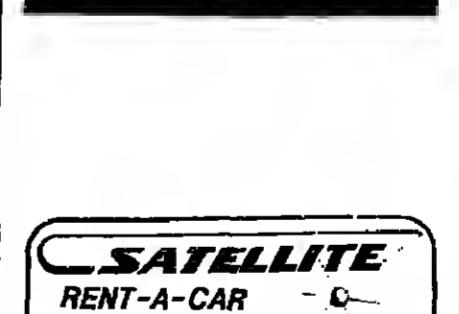
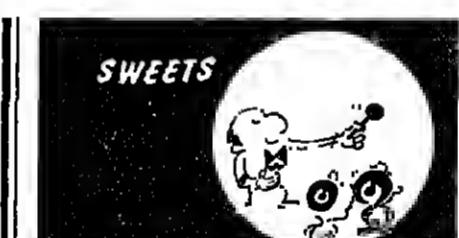
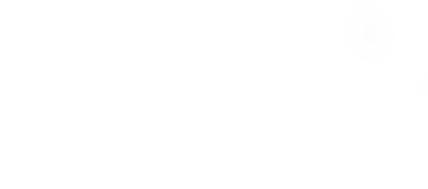
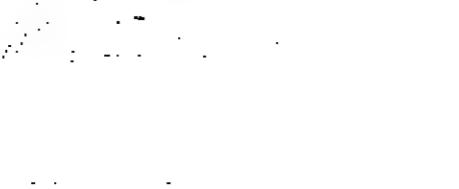
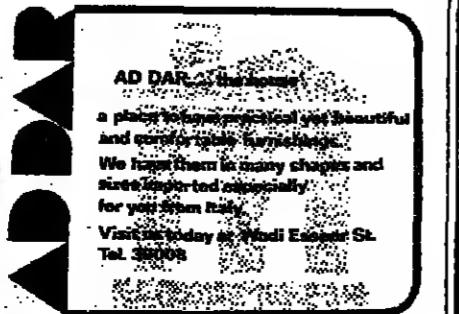
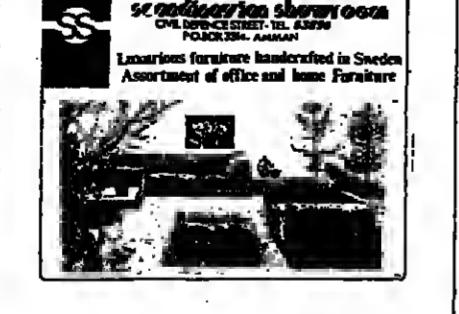
LARIO

Shmeisani Opp. Jordan
Tower Hotel Tel. 64512

Amman Stock Exchange Report

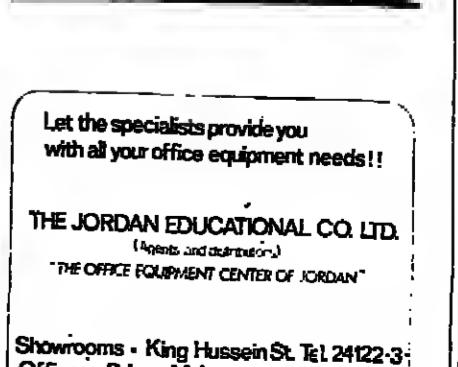
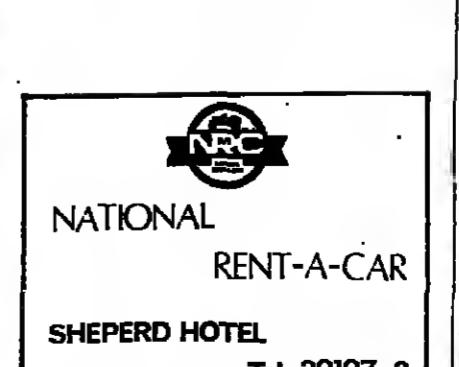
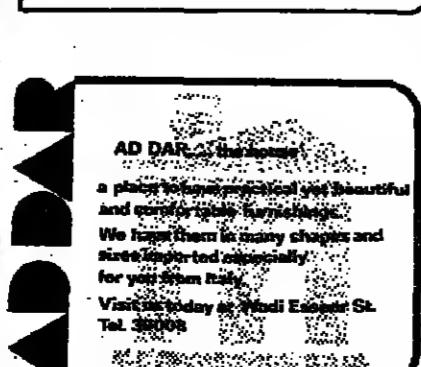
NAME OF COMPANY	Nominal share value	Volumes traded	Opening price	Highest selling price	Lowest selling price	Closing price	Last buying bid	Last selling bid
Housing Bank	JD 1,000	2,420	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.100	1.050	—
Dar Al-Dawra for Investments and Development Co.	JD 1,000	100	1.300	1.250	1.250	1.250	1.200	1.350
Jordan Tanning Co.	JD 5,000	368	7.100	7.250	7.250	7.250	—	—
Arab Aluminum Factory	JD 1,000	380	0.950	0.950	0.950	0.950	—	1.000
Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	541	1.350	1.400	1.400	1.400	—	1.400
Jordan Cement Factory	JD 10,000	3,657	15.900	15.900	15.900	15.900	—	15.950
Jordan Petroleum Co.	JD 5,000	2,260	6.850	6.850	6.805	6.850	—	6.900
Jordan Phosphate Miner Co.	JD 1,000	270	2.100	2.100	2.100	2.100	2.100	2.150
75 per cent of share capital paid								
Total volume traded Monday, Feb. 27 : JD	9,997							

AMMAN MARKETPLACE



SOON IN AMMAN

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CUISINE
IN BEIRUT, TEL. 348308/348307
NICOSIA 49616/49617
LONDON 570-1225/2248
INDIAN RESTAURANTS



Saudi Arabia puts ceiling on light crude oil output

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Feb. 27 oil for 1978, a well-informed (AP). — Saudi Arabia has weekly magazine reported to placed a ceiling on its production of Arabian light crude

The Middle East Economy

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AMMAN — JORDAN

Request international contractors interested in bidding on any or all of the below listed construction packages, apply for prequalification to its manager for Queen Alia International Airport Project:

Queen Alia International Airport Project
Ministry of Transport
P. O. Box (1710),
Amman — Jordan.
Telex 1540 — ANIA — JO

1. Navaids include supply-installation-testing-guarantee of operation-certificate by official flight check according to International Rules (ICAO). (complete turn key job system).

1-1 Instrument landing system cat. II can be up-graded to cat. III.

1-2 VHF - omnidirectional range (VOR) colocated with distance measuring equipment. D.M.E.

1-3 Non-directional radio beacon.

2. Meteorological and associated weather measuring equipment.

3. Air traffic control systems consist of the following:

3-1 ATC desk equipped with radio channels, panel for direct telephone lines, intercom lines, meteorological equipment, digital clocks, provision for future radar display. Panels for monitoring ILS. VOR - DME and NDB shall be coordinated with the Navaids. With all related central and associated equipment, cables, wires.

— No break power supply system.

3-2 Air to ground VHF and UHF radio subsystem complete with remote and local control equipment, to be connected to the control desk with all associated cables, wires and no break power supply.

3-3 Multi channel recorder to record all channels.

3-4 Microwave link between QAIP and the receiving station main and hot standby with 48 channels complete system.

3-5 All necessary teleprinters and associated equipment (system).

4. Airport ground communications system include the following:

— Private automatic branch exchange.
— Land mobile radio services.
— Complete system with cables, wires, telephone sets, portable transceivers, repeaters.

5. Public address systems.

Flight information displays.
Closed circuit T.V. surveillance system with all inside and outside cables, wires and associated equipment.

6. Air field lighting system includes-supply-installation-testing-guarantee of operation-hand-over (turn key job) of the following:

6-1 Air field lighting cat. II consist of:

Runway edge lighting. Runway centre line and touch down zone light. Precision approach cat. II, modified culvert system, three bars VASI, taxiway edge and centre line lighting. Apron flood lights, markers, wind cone illumination, hold position sign / stop bars, identification beacon etc. Local and remote control.

6-2 All inside and outside plant. Cables wires and associated control equipment, solid state constant current regulators and other associated equipment for the above including cat. II short break standby power system. According to ICAO document.

7. Control tower cab.

— Shall be of modular structure.
— Shall house the air traffic control facilities with an area between 50 - 60 square metres. The cab shall have a mechanical room with about the same area to house radio and other equipment.

— The cab shall be air conditioned to environmental conditions.

— The floor of the cab will be 35 metres roughly above the level of the ground.

Contractors who previously submitted prequalification for this work are required to re-apply for prequalification under this notice.

Applications for prequalification shall be submitted before noon on April 8, 1978.

Minister of Transport

Survey, which is published in Nicosia, said the implications of the move were not certain but it "will no doubt have a significant effect on marketing patterns in the Arabian Gulf." The report said the Saudi government had directed the Arabian American oil company (Aramco) to limit its output of Arabian light crude so as not to exceed 65 per cent of total crude oil production in 1978. Last year, Arabian light accounted for 72 per cent of Aramco's oil production. In January, it rose above 76 per cent.

The newsletter said it was uncertain whether the limitation applied to Aramco's actual production of 7.6 million barrels a day or to the 8.5 million barrels a day allowance on total production imposed at the start of the year.

If the ruling applies to actual production -- as seems likely -- the effects would be more severe since Arabian light accounted for 5.6 million of the 7.6 million barrels a day produced in January, according to the newsletter. In such events the limitation would mean an overall production cut of 900,000 barrels a day.

The newsletter assured that at the ruling "involves only 34 degree API Arabian light and does not include the lighter 39 degree API Arabian berry, which generally accounts for about 7.8 per cent of production."

It is speculated that the limitation was meant "to boost offtake of the heavier crudes, which will constitute the bulk of Saudi Arabia's incremental availability in future years."

Aramco produces nearly 98 per cent of Saudi Arabia's total crude oil output. The Saudi government currently owns 60 per cent of Aramco and is preparing to purchase the remaining 40 per cent from its American partners -- Standard Oil of California, Texaco, and Mobil.

— Rank-and-file acceptance of a contract to end America's longest ever coal strike was still in the balance yesterday, judged by early reaction from the coalfields.

Labour Secretary Ray Marshall predicted acceptance by the miners as union leaders mounted a drive to sell the agreement reached last Friday -- 81st day of the strike --

between the United Mine Workers (UMW) and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association (BCOA).

But officials acknowledged they will have their work cut out to win rank-and-file endorsement, even though the contract is widely seen outside the industry as a workers' victory.

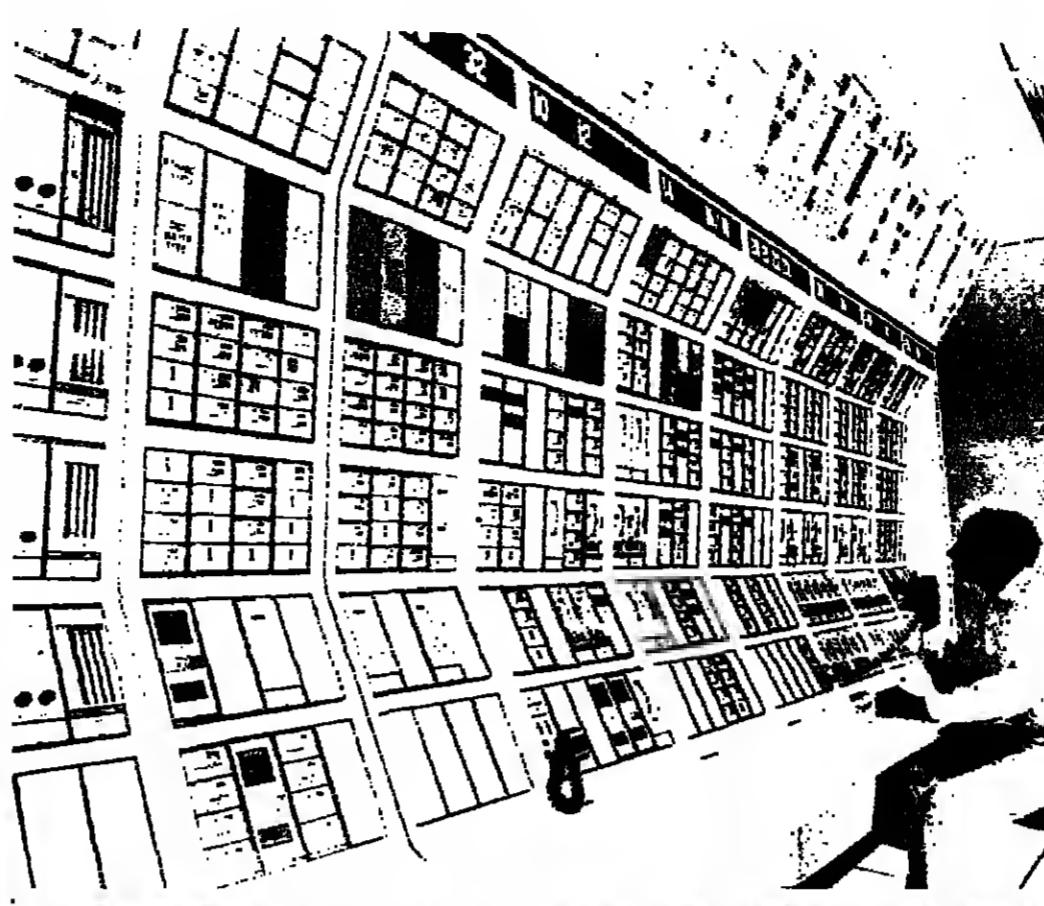
One early indication of trouble was the weekend rejection of a separate agreement with an independent coal operator, negotiated only a few days before the main agreement for which it served as a model.

The agreement with the Pittsburgh and Midway (P. and M.) Coal Mining Company, a subsidiary of the giant Gulf Oil Corporation, was turned down by a 2-1 vote of its 700 employees.

But union officials said it was not as good as the UMW-BCOA agreement and the P. and M. miners wanted their contract brought into line.

Asked on the CBS television programme Face the Nation, if he believed the larger

Operator directs pill production from "mission control"



Although this man may appear to be directing a space mission, he is actually operating the first large-scale computer-controlled manufacturing facility for medicinal tablets in the United States. It is part of the new Merck Sharp & Dohme Pharmaceutical Laboratories in Elkton, Virginia. (IPS photo)

U.S. coal miners' acceptance of new contract hangs in balance

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (R).

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contract brought into line.

Asked on the CBS television

programme Face the Nation, if he believed the larger

agreement would be ratified by the UMW's 160,000 members, Mr. Marshall replied:

"I think it will." He said

"The Carter administration did not plan to campaign for the settlement, which it helped bring out by exerting considerable pressure on the owners to accede to most of the miners' demands.

District officials from the Mid-Western and Appalachian coal areas headed for Washington this weekend to be briefed on details of the settlement, which they will then explain to their members before balloting in a week's time.

Militant groups in Kentucky and West Virginia have already declared their opposition to the agreement and growing opposition to UMW President Arnold Miller which will make the task for union officials even more difficult.

Mr. Miller fuelled militant demands for his resignation when he negotiated an earlier agreement with the BCOA that the UMW Bargaining Council overwhelmingly rejected.

Foreign business finds difficulty opening Japanese import doors

By Stephen Bronte

TOKYO, (F.T.) — After months of steady pressure from the U.S. and the EEC, Japan finally appears willing to open up its home market to imports from overseas.

The government offered in January to reduce tariffs on 2,630 industrial products by a weighted average of 42 per cent. Cuts on 318 imports will be effective from April 1. The import duty on automobiles is to be eliminated completely. In all, the reductions will affect imports that were worth \$20 billion in 1977.

But foreign businessmen here have yet to uncork their bottles of champagne and celebrate. For they know that even if all import duties were eliminated tomorrow, the level of imported manufactured goods would be scarcely affected.

A car costing \$4,000 in the U.S. sells over \$10,000 in Japan and the elimination of a 64 per cent import duty is not likely to cause a flood of foreign imports. Foreign goods have been kept out of Japan for so long that the doors will not open easily -- except for sudden fashion fads like cigarette lighters, Gucci handbags and tobacco sauce.

Japan's trade surplus with the other industrialized nations is certain to continue for the next few years. Special trade negotiator Robert Strauss recently told the U.S. Senate that it could take up to eight years for Japanese-American trade to reach parity. So until the Japanese market really does open up, the West will have to depend on cigarette lighters and tobacco sauce to help fill the gap.

Stampede for fads

But despite these barriers, there have been numerous products over the years which have made it into the country in a big way. Mostly they are high quality luxury items produced by large, well known companies. In fact it seems that every year a new foreign product catches on, and the Japanese stampede to buy it.

In 1976 the Japanese suddenly discovered foreign wine, and importers increased their shipments by five times to 16,240 kilolitres in that year. In 1974 polo shirts with inscriptions like UCLA or Madison Square Garden Athletic Club emblazoned across the front became the rage. American and Scotch whiskies are enjoying growing popularity and now account for 10 per cent of the domestic whisky market.

Foreign cars, despite the small numbers imported (42,000 last year) have a devoted following among certain groups. Volkswagen Beetles are popular with the upper middle class. Large American cars have a loyal clientele in the underworld, and thus project a gangster image in Japan.

Women's fashion-related imports have been in strong de-

mand for years. Yves St. Laurent silk scarves are a must, and Gucci handbags are in such short supply that they are fetching up to \$400 apiece. The worldwide blue jeans fad of the early 1970's came and went, and now synthetic clothing from Taiwan and South Korea is being brought up. Other fast-moving foreign products include greasy wool sweaters, cigarette lighters, cigarettes, cosmetics, fur coats, skis and tobacco sauce.

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-- Financial Times
News Features

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

	Jordanian fils Buying/Selling
U.S. dollar	310.00/312.00
U.K. sterling	602.00/606.00
W. German mark	151.50/152.40
Swiss franc	167.60/168.50
French franc	64.10/64.50
Italian lire (for every 100)	36.20/36.40
Japanese yen (for every 100)	129.40/130.20
Dutch guilder	141.50/142.30
Belgian franc (for every ten)	97.60/98.20
Swedish crown	67.00/67.40

People in the News

Norton named Fighter of the Year

NEW YORK, (AP). — Ken Norton, who shook off a controversial title loss to Muhammad Ali in 1976 with three victories last year, was named Sunday Fighter of the Year for 1977 by the Boxing Writers Association. Mr. Norton, the No. 1-ranked heavyweight contender, solidified that rating in 1977 by knocking out previously unbeaten Duane Bobick in 58 seconds, knocking out Lorenzo Zanon in five rounds, then scoring a 15-round decision over no. 2 Jimmmy Young Nov. 3. Negotiations currently are underway for North title shot against champion Leon Spinks in May or June.

Princess Grace makes a comeback

PITTSBURG, Pennsylvania (AP). — Monaco's Princess Grace returned to the American stage Sunday and captured the hearts of nostalgic fans and new admirers with a programme of poetry on "birds, beasts and flowers." Members of the audience, whose attire included fur coats, black ties, tennis shoes and ski jackets, were the first Americans to see the former

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, FEB. 28, 1978

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

on the CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good time to organize a campaign of action whereby you can easily gain your most cherished desires. In the evening you are able to rise above obstacles and delays by using common sense.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be more efficient in making arrangements for the future and get better results. Take time to engage in favorite hobby.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Contact higher-ups who can help you with a project you have in mind. Pay more attention to an important civic matter today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You are able to get our work down done with less effort today, so get busy early. Sidestep an argument with mate.

MONS CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Reserve time for recreational activities you wish to engage in later in the year. Make better arrangements for the days ahead.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Strive for more harmony by doing whatever will improve conditions at home. Study a new venture that could bring added income.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Make a new plan with co-workers that can increase productivity and profits. Adopt more efficient system of working.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Focus your attention on monetary matters today so that you can improve your position in life. Obtain advice from business experts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Think of new ways to save added income in the future. Avoid one who wants to waste your time. Strive for happiness.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Take time to tidy up your true financial position and figure ways to improve it. Evening can be ideal with loved one.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Make plans for retaining good friends and gain their added goodwill. Stop feeling sorry for yourself. Be wise.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can accomplish much in civic and career matters today, so get an early start. Seek the support of higher-ups.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have new activities that can benefit you greatly if you get an early start. Go to the right sources for the data you need.

RESTAURANT TAIWAN TOURISMO

Jordan's largest and most renowned Chinese restaurant offers you a gourmet's trip to the Far East via superior oriental cuisine and authentic northern Chinese and Cantonese dishes. TAKE OUT ORDERS AVAILABLE

Circle, Jabal Amman, Telephone 41093

We would like you to join us

the Daily Dish, a table & European dishes. At

GRAFFITI
MEN AND STEEL ARE ALIKE - WORTHLESS WHEN THEY LOSE THEIR TEMPER

THE BETTER HALF.

By Barnes



"My new secretary is blonde, 5 feet tall, 36-26-36 and that's all I know about her."

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Gandhi's party wins state election; rival Congress head resigns

NEW DELHI, Feb. 27 (Agencies). — Official Congress Party President Brahma Reddy today resigned because of his party's dismal performance in yesterday's elections in the southern India State of Karnataka where former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's breakaway Congress faction won a stunning victory. Mr. Reddy's resignation was a result of his responsibility for the defeat of his party in Karnataka, he said today.

According to latest results from Karnataka, Mrs. Gandhi's party has won an absolute majority of 152 in the 224-member assembly, with all results declared.

The official Congress Party has won only two seats, while India's national ruling Janata Party has captured 58. The remaining 12 seats went to minor parties, Communists and Independents.

Mrs. Gandhi's faction of is thus assured of the right to

form a new government in the southern state.

Mrs. Gandhi was not a candidate in Karnataka State, but had campaigned hard there and in four other states which held elections from points.

He was Mrs. Gandhi's choice, but when she began her political comeback last August he refused to step aside and allow her to become president.

She began an internal Congress battle last month, splitting the 92-year-old party, and was elected president of a breakaway group that declared itself the real Congress.

Mrs. Gandhi's strong showing in Karnataka was expected, but the poor performance by the rival Congress surprised most observers.

Defeat of the rival faction was seen as crucial for Mrs. Gandhi's party, which is trying to establish a comeback after its defeat by Mr. Desai's Janata forces last year.

The victory was seen as a rebuff to the Janata, which last Dec. 31 dissolved the pro-Gandhi state government on allegations of corruption and of having lost public confidence.

Shah orders Tabriz officials punished

TEHRAN, Feb. 27 (R). — The Shah of Iran has ordered the prosecution and punishment of officials who failed to anticipate the riots in the northwestern city of Tabriz, a week ago, during which nine people were killed and 125 injured, a government spokesman announced here yesterday.

The Shah's orders were issued after he received a report from the senior team of inspectors he sent to Tabriz to probe the incidents, the spokesman said.

The government spokesman denied foreign reports that sc-

ores of people had been killed during the riots, reiterating that only nine people had been killed in Tabriz.

He also denied reports that a state of siege had been declared in Tabriz, adding that life had returned to normal after the two-day rioting.

Two U.S. gas mishaps kill 20

NEW YORK, Feb. 27 (AP). — Three more people died from burns suffered in a railroad tank car explosion in Tennessee while a derailment in Florida

spewed chlorine gas killing eight as the toll from the two accidents rose over the weekend to 20 dead and more than 100 injured.

In Waverly, Tennessee, the death toll rose from nine to 12 yesterday following Friday's liquid propane explosion. Waverly's police and fire chiefs were among the dead.

Earlier yesterday, a freight train was derailed near the Florida panhandle town of Youngstown, rupturing a tanker carrying liquid chlorine, which vapored and spread a yellow-green cloud across a nearby highway. Eight people died and 67 were taken to hospitals.

About 2,500 residents of an 200 sq. kms. area of rural north Florida were evacuated and told it would not be safe to return before today.

Investigators in Waverly said that the walls of the tank can carried the propane may have weakened before the blast. The car had derailed two days earlier.

"That theory is one that we may settle on," said Mr. Phillip L. Hooper, Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company Vice President for Tennessee.

Only hours after workers successfully completed draining volatile propane from a second derailed tank car in Waverly, a 104-unit freight train carrying hazardous materials went off the tracks 88 kms. west in a rural area near the tiny cotton gin town of Cades.

About 200 litre of sodium hydroxide, a substance harmful if breathed or touched, leaked.



A Parisian motorcyclist takes time off during the weekend to examine the first of the party posters to appear in the French capital announcing the start of the campaign for next month's National Assembly elections. (AP wirephoto)

Eritrean groups say Cubans aid Ethiopia in northern war also

ROME, Feb. 27 (AP). — Heavy fighting has flared up in the past week in an Ethiopian attempt to break a siege on the Eritrean capital of Asmara.

One of the two guerrilla groups struggling for independence said today there are as many as 1,000 Cuban troops involved in the battle.

A spokesman for the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), said his organization's intelligence inside Asmara has discovered that Cuban troops are manning heavy ar-

tillery and rocket launchers.

He said Ethiopian airlines cancelled all commercial flights for a week to bring in Cuban troops from Angola and other points.

The spokesman, and another spokesman for the rival Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF), both reported heavy fighting in the Feb. 20-25 period to the south of the Eritrean capital, under siege by guerrilla troops since late last year.

Both guerrilla groups claimed that the Ethiopian thrust had been halted at heavy losses to the government troops, although their accounts of the fighting differed in detail.

The ELF spokesman said his forces halted the Ethiopians nine kms. south of Asmara and a small village named Selia Darro. He said 380 enemy soldiers were forced to retreat towards Asmara after several days of battle.

Western delegations immediately began efforts to wind up the conference, already two weeks behind schedule, by deciding what they called the "only possible solution", probably a laconic communiqué that will say nothing politically contentious.

"The Canary Islands are not an African affair and should not have been considered by the OAU," Senor Oreja said.

Informed sources said diplomatic relations between Spain and certain OAU countries could be severely damaged if the OAU heads of state ratify the

Major decisions due as Chinese parliament opens 2nd day of meet

PEKING, Feb. 27 (R). — China's parliament met for the second day today to discuss a report, delivered yesterday by Communist Party Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, on the work of government which called for a big increase in technological expertise.

Nearly 3,500 delegates are attending the National People's Congress, the fifth since the communist state was founded in 1949.

It opened yesterday in Peking's Great Hall of the People with Mr. Hua's three-and-a-half hour speech.

The congress is also due to consider a new ten-year economic plan and a report of revisions to the Constitution, and to elect state leaders.

The Fifth National People's Congress meets amid a general feeling of optimism reflected in the official press that things are going well in the country after more than a decade of political and industrial turmoil.

An editorial carried by the

Poll shows most Americans oppose Mideast plane sales

By Evans Witt

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27 (AP). — U.S. President Jimmy Carter's plan to sell sophisticated warplanes to three Middle Eastern nations, including Israel, is opposed by most of the American people, an Associated Press-NBC News poll shows.

More than three out of five Americans are against at least one section of the proposed warplane sales to Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel. Only one piece of the sale -- planes for Israel -- is supported by as many as 24 per cent of the 1,800 adults questioned.

The findings reflect a sentiment among many Americans for less U.S. involvement in the affairs of the Middle East and indicate public disenchantment with the U.S. role as an arms merchant.

President Carter proposed the \$4.8 billion plane sales package to the three countries on Feb. 14. The proposal represents a major U.S. policy shift in its arms sales to Egypt.

Opinions about the sales to each country were asked as separate questions in telephone interviews last Tuesday and Wednesday.

The same group -- those who favoured the sale to Israel -- agreed with the sale to Saudi Arabia by a 57-36 per cent margin.

Other questions on the Middle East showed a desire for less U.S. involvement and a deterioration of support for the Israeli bargaining position.

Asked whether the U.S. should pressure Israel or Egypt into concessions, only 6 per cent said this country should pressure Israel and only 2 per cent agreed with pressure on Egypt.

Twenty-one per cent said both countries should feel the weight of U.S. influence, while 62 per cent thought the United States should avoid leaning on either side.

Begin loses popularity

Disenchantment with the Israeli government was found in three questions.

First, 55 per cent said President Anwar Sadat of Egypt had made more concessions than Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin while 15 per cent felt Mr. Begin had made more concessions. Eight per cent thought both sides had yielded, while 22 per cent were not sure.

Spain slams OAU's independence stand on Canary Islands

MADRID, Feb. 27 (R). — Spain has accused the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) of instigating an intolerable interference in Spanish internal affairs by declaring support for an independence movement in the Canary Islands.

The OAU Council of Ministers, meeting in the Libyan capital of Tripoli, adopted on Saturday a recommendation by its Liberation Committee to aid separation guerrillas in the Canaries.

A statement issued by the Spanish Foreign Ministry yesterday said Spain had protested firmly and energetically to all the OAU member states that voted for the recommendation.

It also said Spain would take measures to prevent the council's decision from being ratified at the meeting of OAU heads of state in Khartoum next June.

No details of the measures were given. But Defence Minister Lt.-Gen. Manuel Gutierrez Mellado said on Thursday Spain would defend the Canaries "no matter what is said and no matter what happens."

Foreign Minister Marcelino Oreja said he would call the Madrid ambassadors of OAU member countries to his office early this week to register a strong protest at last night's decision.

Senor Oreja said Spanish ambassadors in the OAU countries that had voted for the council's decision had also been instructed to make firm and energetic protests.

"The Canary Islands are not an African affair and should not have been considered by the OAU," Senor Oreja said.

Informed sources said diplomatic relations between Spain and certain OAU countries could be severely damaged if the OAU heads of state ratify the

Council of Ministers' decision. Spanish officials today accused Algeria of instigating the OAU move and said it was unlikely the Spanish ambassador, recalled from Algiers for consultations last December, would return to his post.

Human rights all but kill Belgrade meet

BELGRADE, Feb. 27 (R). — Neutral nations pressed again today for a face-saving formula to enable the deadlocked European security conference to end without further arguments about human rights.

Gloomy diplomats anxious to go home after 17 weeks of debate said there was no hope of a final political declaration acceptable to all three groups, East, West and neutrals.

The neutral attempt was virtually killed last night when NATO nations finally rejected a neutral draft declaration on grounds that it was unbalanced by ignoring human rights.

Western delegations immediately began efforts to wind up the conference, already two weeks behind schedule, by deciding what they called the "only possible solution", probably a laconic communiqué that will say nothing politically contentious.

The 35-nation conference has stopped debating any of the real issues involved in East-West detente, and is now seeking only to find suitable language for a closing document.

World News Briefs

Tunisia lifts state of emergency

TUNIS, Feb. 27 (R). — The Tunisian government on Saturday night lifted a state of emergency imposed last month after bloody clashes swept the capital. The announcement by the interior ministry came as the country's only trade union organisation, the UGTT, opened a one-day extraordinary congress. Its purpose is to elect new leaders to replace those in detention. Ten members of the 13-man Executive were detained when they were held responsible for the Tunis disturbances during a one-day general strike called by the union on Jan. 26.

Pakistan arrests 25 protesting saboteurs

KARACHI, Feb. 27 (R). — Police arrested 25 people after they tried to blow up a railway line on Saturday in protest against the arrest of Sind Province leader Mackdoom Khaliluzz Zaman, an official statement said yesterday. The statement said the group also sabotaged an irrigation canal, flooding about 40 hectares of land and damaging 553 houses. The incident, at Shahbukhara, 320 kms. north of here, followed the conviction in nearby Hala on Friday of 50 Mackdoom followers of arson, looting and demonstrating. All were given one-year prison sentences with 27 also ordered to be whipped.

South African black leader dies

KIMBERLEY, South Africa, Feb. 27 (AP). — Civil rights leader Robert Sobukwe, head of the outlawed Pan Africanist Congress, died in the Kimberley Hospital, his family announced today. Mr. Sobukwe had suffered from lung cancer. He underwent chest surgery in Cape Town late last year. Mr. Sobukwe, an internationally respected black nationalist leader, became a symbol of this white-ruled country's system of detention without trial.

Ex-veep claims Colombian poll victory

BOGOTA, Colombia, Feb. 27 (AP). — Former Vice President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala claimed victory today in primary elections to choose a presidential candidate for the ruling Liberal Party. The nation's radio networks picked Mr. Ayala to win after unofficial results showed him with 177,789 votes against 116,004 for former President Carlos Lleras Restrepo. Political analysts predicted Mr. Ayala's victory because he was reported to be favoured by the administration of President Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, 65, running again. The presidential election is on June 4. A primary victory would give Mr. Ayala a good chance to win a four-year term beginning in 1978, analysts said.

Filipino rebels said kidnap Frenchman

MANILA, Feb. 27 (R). — A French Embassy counsellor flew to the southern Philippines today to help in the search for a French official believed kidnapped by Moslem rebels near Zamboanga city. M. Pierre Huguet, 59, a Sub-Director of the French Ministry of Finance, was last seen yesterday. M. Huguet, who was holidaying in the Philippines with his wife, is the sixth kidnap victim of the Moslem rebels in a week and the second foreigner to be kidnapped since the beginning of the year.

More on crashed Soviet satellite

EDMONTON, Canada Feb. 27 (AP). — Debris found in the southwestern Great Slave Lake region might be residue from the reactor core of a fallen Soviet Cosmos satellite, a Canadian armed forces spokesman said on Saturday night. Scientists say they have been studying small, pepper-grain sized pieces of debris recovered last week. Maj. Vic Keating said in a prepared statement. The nuclear-powered satellite re-entered the earth's atmosphere and crashed in the northwest Territories on Jan. 24.

John Doe 150